

Meeting Notes
January 24, 2002
Columbia Mainstem TMDL Monthly Meeting
BPA Spokane Office
5th Floor
707 W. Main Ave
Spokane, Washington

Participants

Cathy Tortorici - NMFS (phone)
Mark Schneider - NMFS (phone)
Paul Pickett - WA Ecology - (phone)
James Thomas (phone) - Yakama Indian Nation
Dick Cassidy - Corps
Mary Lou Soscia - EPA
Patti Stone - Colville Tribe
Janine Jennings - EPA
John Gross - Kalispel Tribe
Gary Passmore - Colville Tribe
Brian Crossley - Spokane Tribe
Ann Butler - WA Ecology
Jim Irish - BPA
Russell Harding - OR DEQ
Chris Maynard - WA Ecology
Dave Zimmer - Bureau of Reclamation
Teresa Kubo - EPA
Rick Parkin - EPA
Krystyna Wolniakowski - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Jeanne Parodi - WA Ecology

1. Update on TDG TMDL

The joint Lower Columbia TDG TMDL has been reviewed and approved by Washington. Oregon's management has reviewed the document and provided comments to Russell Harding. Comments were primarily editorial and final approval from Oregon should be forthcoming. The draft TMDL should be available on February 1, 2002 for public distribution and review.

Oregon and Washington will be conducting a 45 day public comment period which will commence the first week of February and conclude on March 18th. Formal public hearings will be scheduled in mid-March. Four public hearings will be held with two meetings in each state. Washington's meetings will be held in Vancouver and the Tri-Cities, and Oregon's will be in Pendleton and Portland. Officials from both states will attend all meetings. Washington has volunteered to convert the draft TMDL document into a pdf file and EPA will post the TMDL on EPA's Columbia basin TMDLs website.

Our target date to issue the Lower Columbia TDG TMDL is May 1st and have a final TMDL in November of 2002.

(THE SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED SINCE THIS MEETING - DATES FOR THE TDG HEARINGS HAVE NOT BEEN SET as of February 8, 2002)

2. Update on Temperature TMDL

At the last Technical Team Meeting the group discussed the approach to the TMDL that resulted in one number per season for each target site. That number was the 90th percentile temperature reduction needed over the simulation period of 30 years.

The group also discussed other approaches that would

- decoupled the allocations from the model
- make the allocations easier to understand
- make the allocation in temperature rather than temperature reductions

This generated significant discussion in the group, but the group agreed that the Technical Team would continue to brainstorm approaches and get back to the steering committee. The next Technical Team meeting will be held on February 6th in Olympia. The key issue is developing a method that provides targets for each target site that is sufficiently protective, but not overly protective.

The current schedule for the Temperature TMDL is as follows:

January 6th Technical Team meeting to develop draft explanation of temperature allocations and strategy for load allocations.

February 21st monthly coordination meeting Portland

March 25th public workshop in Vancouver, WA

March 26th public workshop in Toppenish, WA

March 26th monthly coordination meeting

March 27th field tour

3. March Workshops

The group discussed our proposed public workshops in March and decided to move the dates back to the end of the month. This allows more time to work on some of the temperature issues and avoid any conflicts with the formal public hearings on Lower Columbia TDG TMDL. The meetings will be held in Vancouver and Toppenish, WA

The purpose of the public workshops is to update the public on the status of Lower Columbia TDG TMDL, provide information and receive input on the Mid-Columbia TDG and Columbia/Snake River Temperature TMDLs.

Washington will take the lead on making arrangements for meeting rooms in Toppenish and Vancouver. Ann Butler will be the primary contact.

The Toppenish public workshop will be held from 9am to 2:30pm with a monthly coordination meeting following the workshop. The Vancouver meeting will be held from 10am to 3:30pm. EPA will send meeting invitations out by February 22nd and post information on the web by March 11th.

John Osterberg will rework the agendas and work with Ann Butler on locating a facilitator for the workshops.

4. Update on Tribal Consultation

EPA is nearing completion of the tribal consultation letters to the fourteen tribes. EPA will consult on five items: Lower Columbia TDG TMDL, Mid-Columbia TDG TMDL, Temperature TMDL (Oregon and Washington), Temperature TMDL Tribal Lands, and TDG TMDL Tribal Lands.

Krystyna Wolniakowski with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation has an EPA grant to assist tribes in consultation. Grant money was used for the Kah-Nee-Ta workshop and \$30,000 remains for future activities. At the conference NFWF asked for input from the tribes on how the remaining money should be spent. Some of the recommendations included travel money for tribal participation, private consultant to assist tribes, and another forum. The steering committee was also asked for input and education and teaching were recommended. The group briefly discussed the upcoming Lake Roosevelt Forum in Spokane April 2002 where the tribes have a slot.

5. Upper Columbia/Lake Roosevelt Gas TMDL

There was a meeting yesterday on how we are going to develop a TDG TMDL from the Okanogan River to the Canadian border between the tribes and state of Washington. Some of the ideas discussed included having Paul Pickett take the lead below Grand Coulee and coordinate with the Colville Tribe. EPA would take the lead above Grand Coulee and coordinate with the Colville and Spokane Tribes and Washington. Once the TMDLs are completed EPA would issue the TMDL on behalf of the tribes and state. EPA would need a request from the state of Washington to move forward on this. We also discussed the half of river issue if EPA issued for the tribe and Washington issued on the other side of the river. Everyone agreed that we would prefer to coordinate this activity and move toward one implementation plan that encompass both tribal and state lands.

Discussion on this issue will continue at next month's meeting. Other issues include the tribes lack of resources to participate and need for a review including legal concerns, Colville's need to revise water quality standards, Canadian inflows and schedule.

6. Canadian Involvement in Temperature TMDL

Canadian involvement in the Temperature TMDL is essential to improving water quality. The group feels that EPA needs to take the lead on this issue, but resources are lacking. Need to set up a group to work with John Iani on this issue. Also, need to make contact with Tony White at BPA. This will be an agenda item for next month.

7. TMDL Website

The Columbia basin TMDL website has not been updated for several months. We have two fact sheets, meeting agendas, and the draft Lower Columbia TDG TMDL to post in the next several weeks. Theresa Kubo was asked to look over the site and update material. She will work with Jane Carlin on posting additional information.

8. USCID Workshop

Paul Pickett indicated that Washington Department of Ecology will be providing at least two papers to the upcoming USCID Conference on TMDLs in Sacramento, CA. The meeting is scheduled for October 23-26. John Osterberg from USBR and Dave Smith EPA-San Francisco will also make presentations.

The group also discussed several other upcoming conferences that we can use for outreach. These include the following;

Washington State University Feb 20-21, 2001
Vancouver
Water Quality Conference
Mary Lou will be talking on Columbia Basin TMDLs

Lake Roosevelt Forum
Spokane Conference
Coming Up with presentation
April 27-May 1st

TMDL Conference sponsored by Water and Environment Federation
Phoenix
November 2002

9. USBR/EPA Involvement

Mr. Osterbergs funding to continue working on the Columbia basin TMDL is still not finalized. There is support to fund his involvement for one week per month and provide some travel funds. Washington is concerned that moneys used to fund this activity would impact funding on the Walla Walla TMDL effort. EPA assured Washington that this is not the case.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- February 7th, Temperature Technical Meeting (has now been changed to February 6th in Lacey, WA.)
- February 21st, February Monthly Coordination Meeting in Portland
- February 22nd, NMFS Consultation Meeting on Temperature in Portland

- ~~March 5th, Lower Columbia TDG Public Hearing in Pendleton~~
- ~~March 6th, Lower Columbia TDG Public Hearing in Tri-Cities~~
- ~~March 12th, Lower Columbia TDG Public Hearing in Portland~~
- ~~March 13th, Lower Columbia TDG Public Hearing in Vancouver~~
- March 25th, Columbia TMDL's Public Workshop in Vancouver
- March 26th, Columbia TMDL's Public Workshop in Toppenish
- March 26th, Monthly TMDL Meeting in Toppenish
- April 28th, TransboundAry Meeting in Spokane
- April 29-30th, EPA, Washington, Tribes Meeting in Spokane

23. Action Items

~~February 1, 2002 — Oregon and Washington will have Draft Lower Columbia TDG TMDL ready for public distribution.~~

~~February 8, 2002 — Washington will develop "pdf" version of Draft Lower Columbia TDG TMDL for distribution.~~

February 22, 2002 EPA will send out invitations to March workshops

February 2002 Ann Butler will locate meeting room facilities for March public workshops

February 2002 John Osterberg and Ann Butler will locate facilitator and finalize March workshop agendas.

February 2002 Tribal consultation letters sent to tribes

March 11, 2002 Post March workshop material on website